

# Recent Trends in Cowlitz River Salmon and Steelhead Harvest

Josua Holowatz – WDFW District Fish Biologist

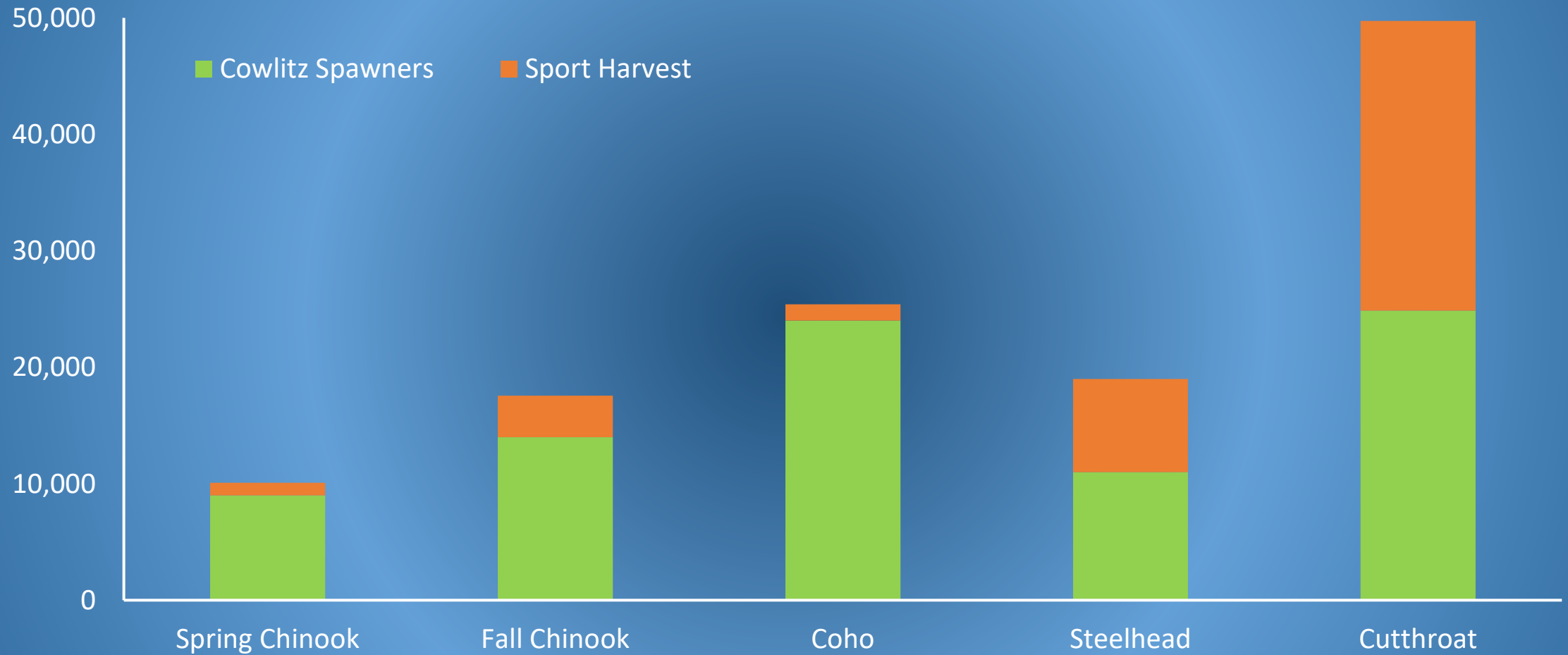
John Serl – WDFW Cowlitz River Biologist



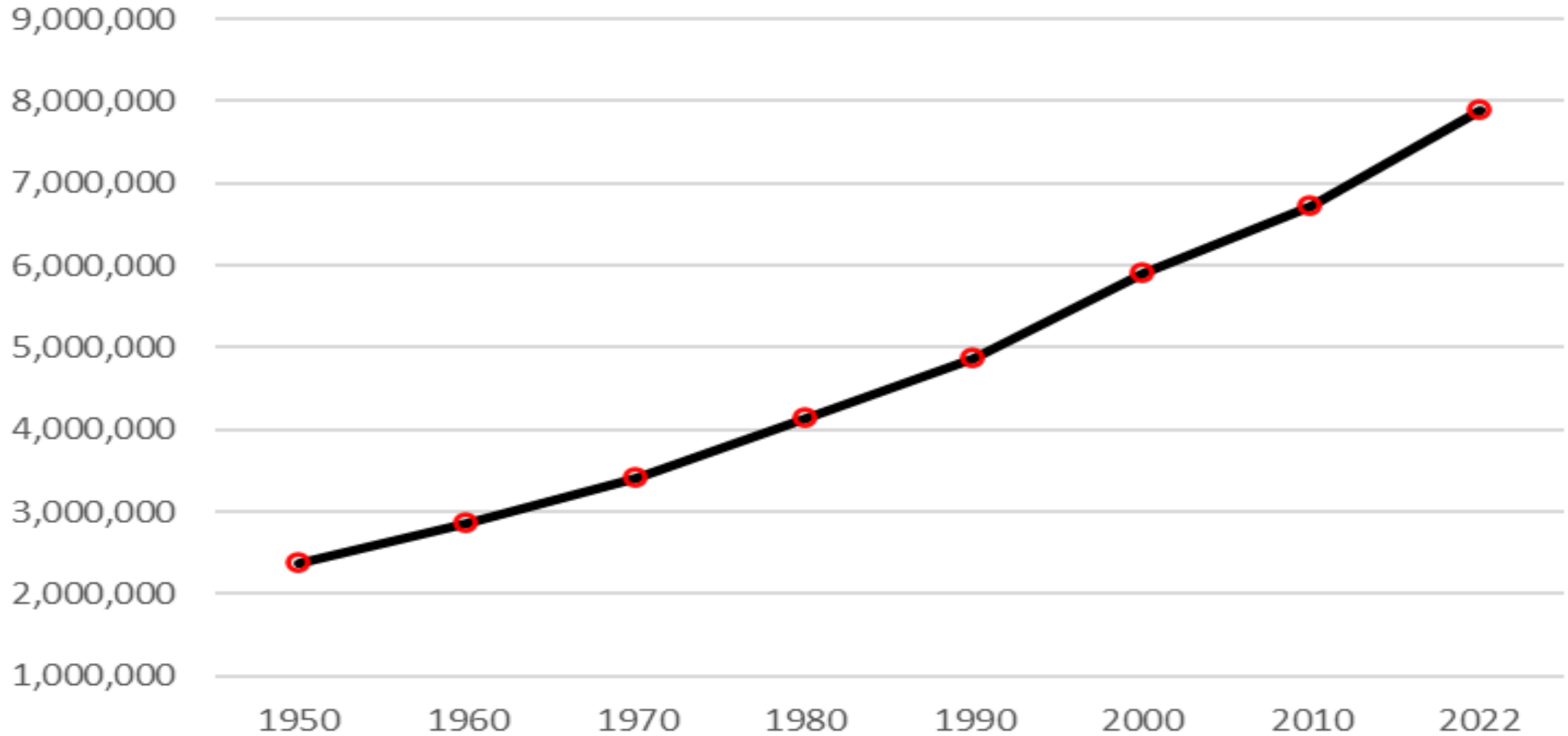
Cowlitz River Annual Program Review  
and Fisheries Science Conference

August 22, 2023

# 1948 Cowlitz River Catch and Spawners



## Washington State Population Growth



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

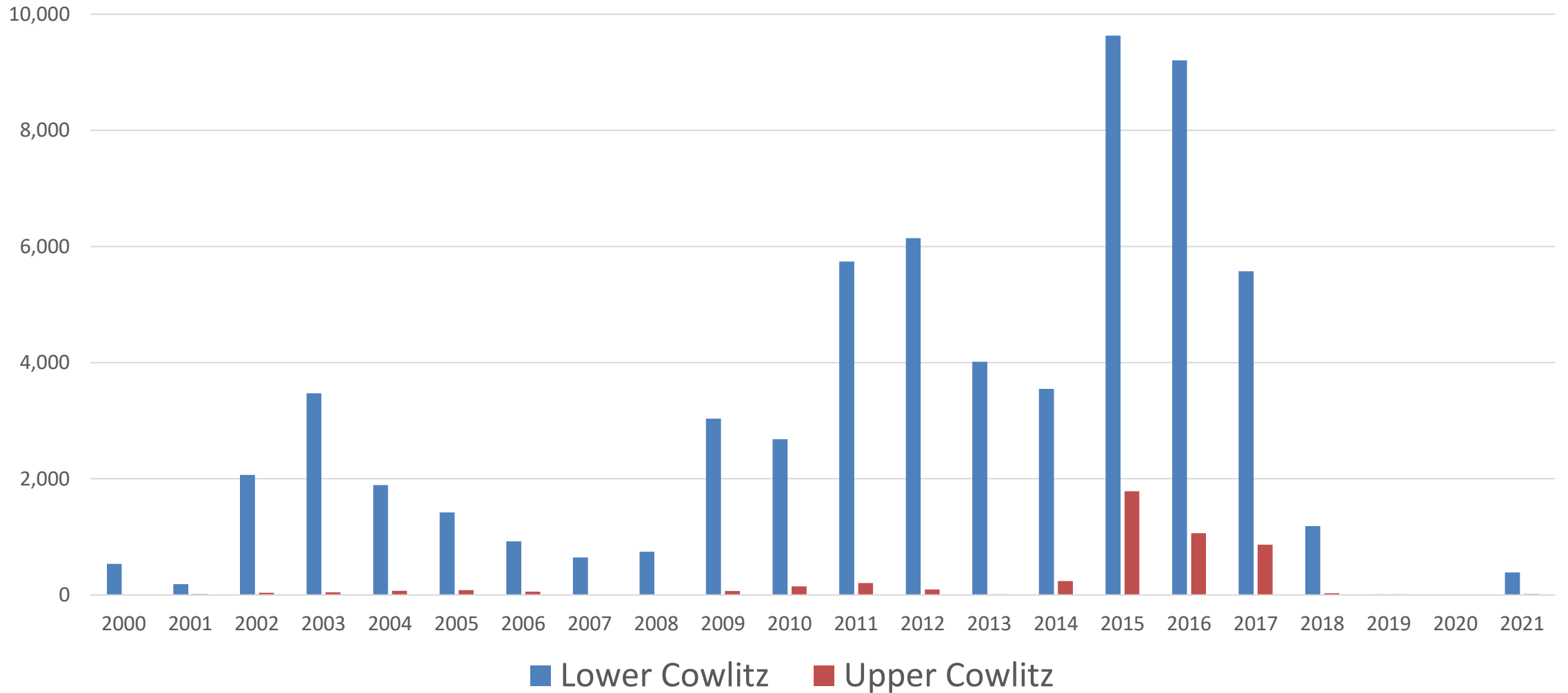
\*Estimated

# Cowlitz River Salmon and Steelhead Harvest

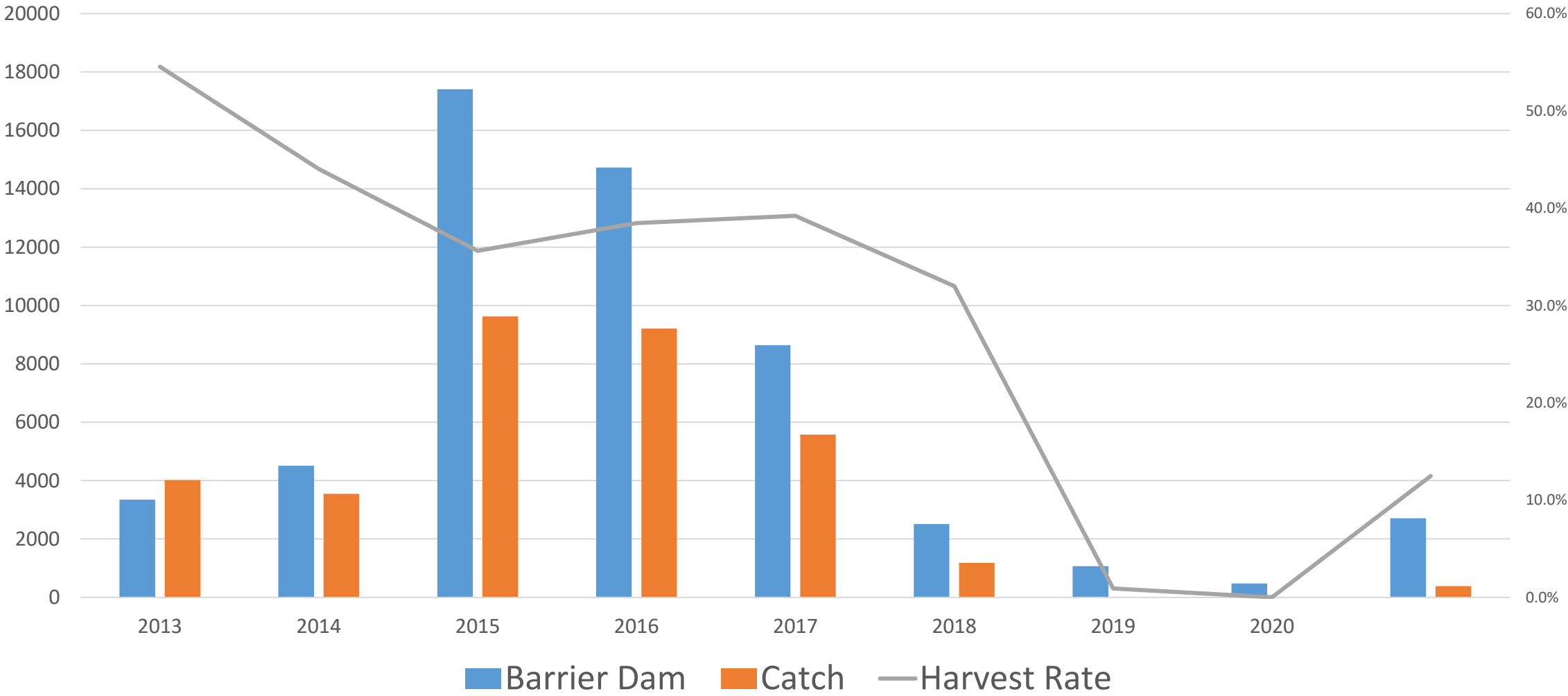
## Data Sources:

- Barrier Dam Adult Facility is Operated by Tacoma Power and WDFW
  - TPU maintains database
  - Broodstock collection, and transportation to Upper Cowlitz and Tilton
- WDFW Lower Cowlitz Spot Creel (Tacoma Power-funded)
  - Mark Selective Fisheries: Natural origin fish released
  - General river conditions
- WDFW Catch Record Card Estimates
  - Washington State Sports Catch reports
  - Estimates are expanded from a sub-sample of returned cards
    - *See reports for full methods*

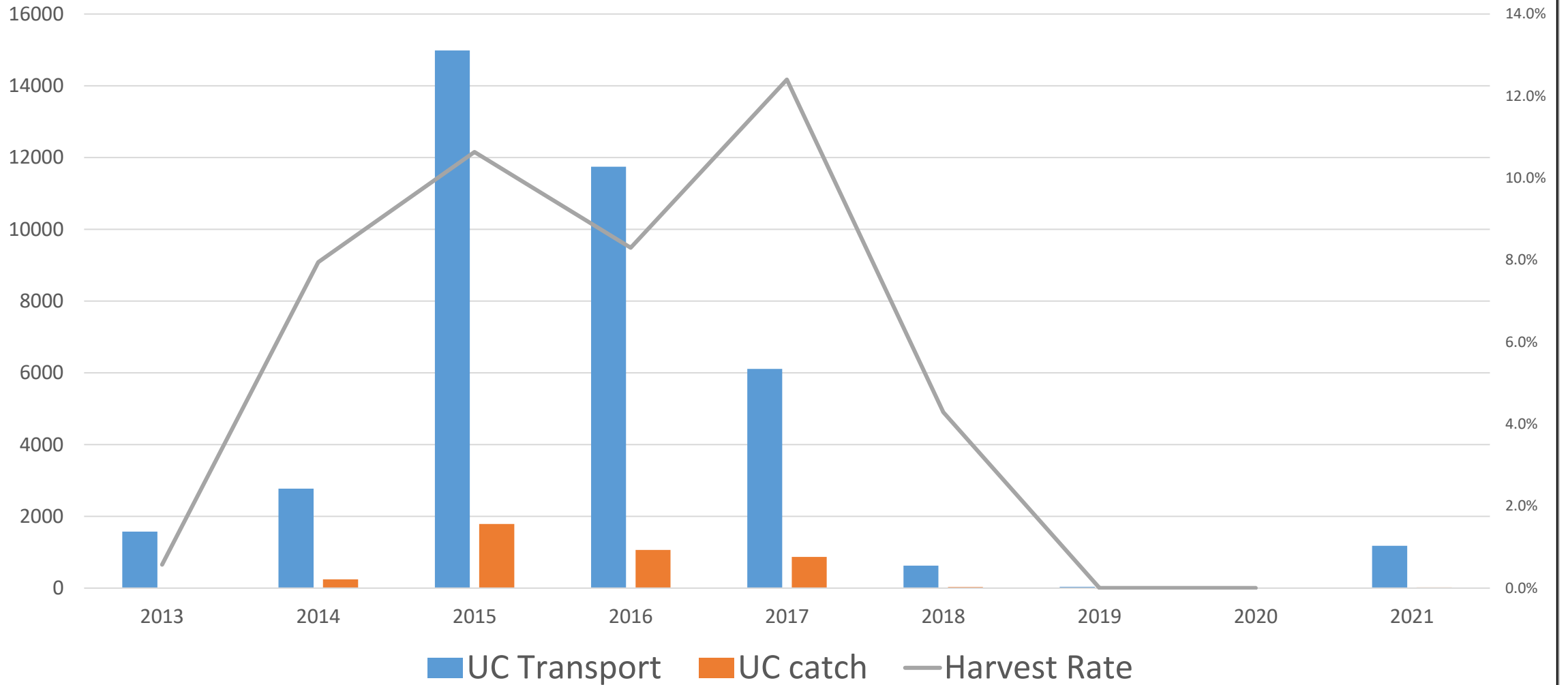
# Cowlitz Spring Chinook Harvest 2000-2021



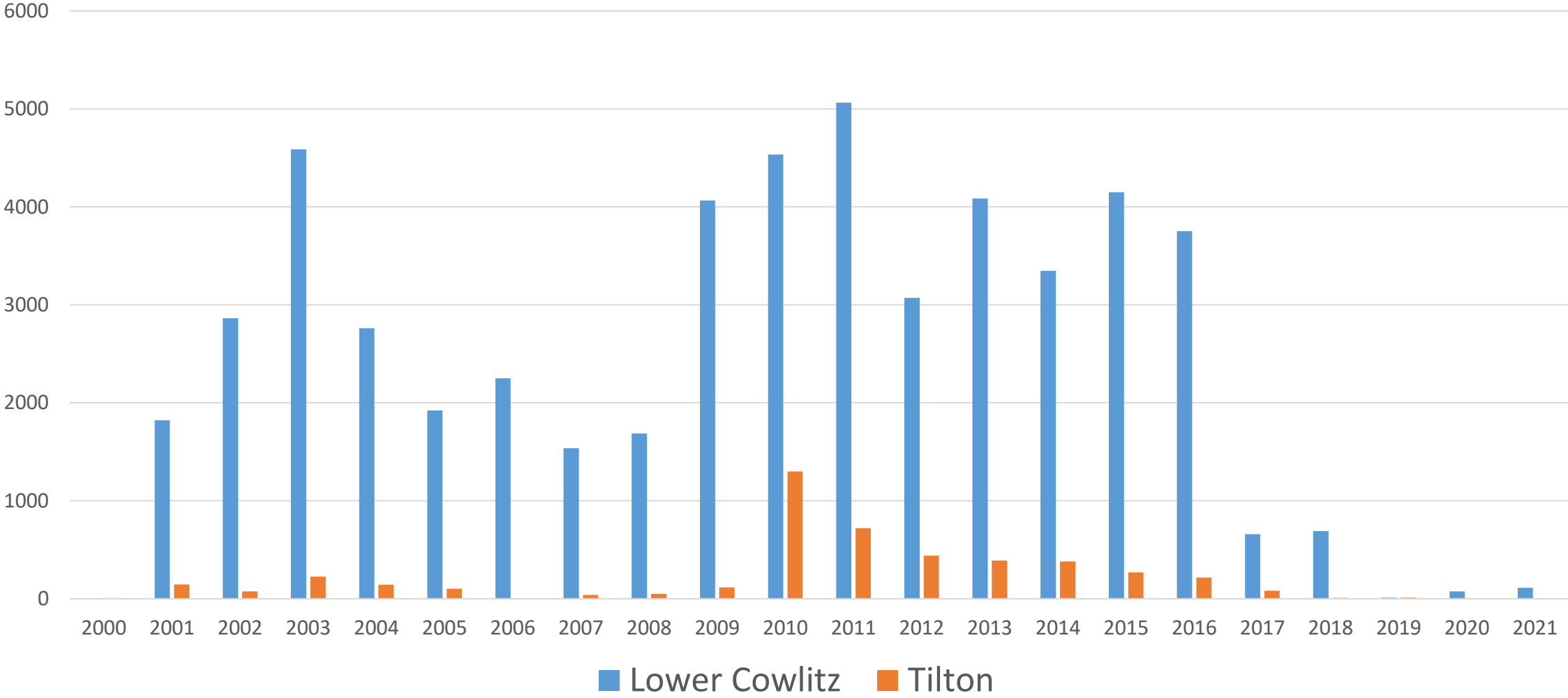
# Lower Cowlitz Spring Chinook Harvest 2013-2021



# Upper Cowlitz Spring Chinook Harvest 2013-2021

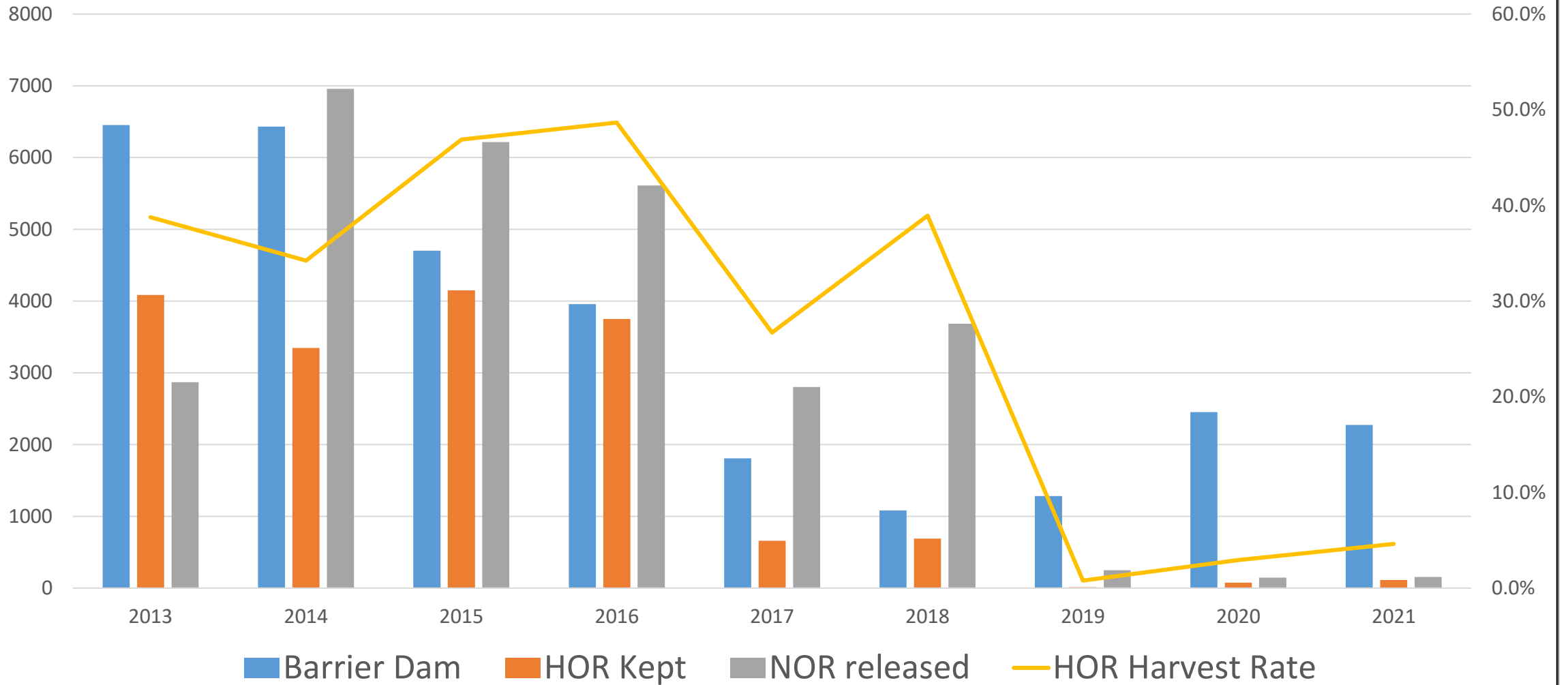


# Cowlitz Fall Chinook Harvest 2000-2021

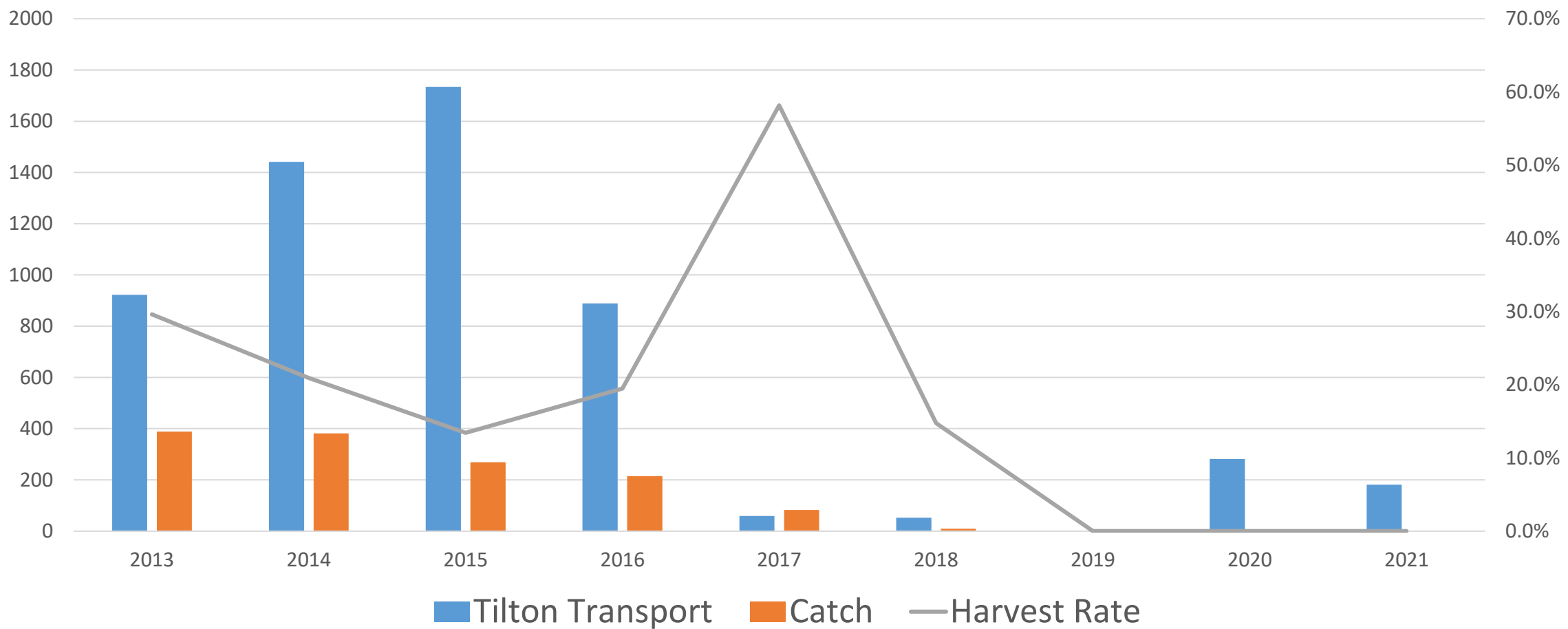




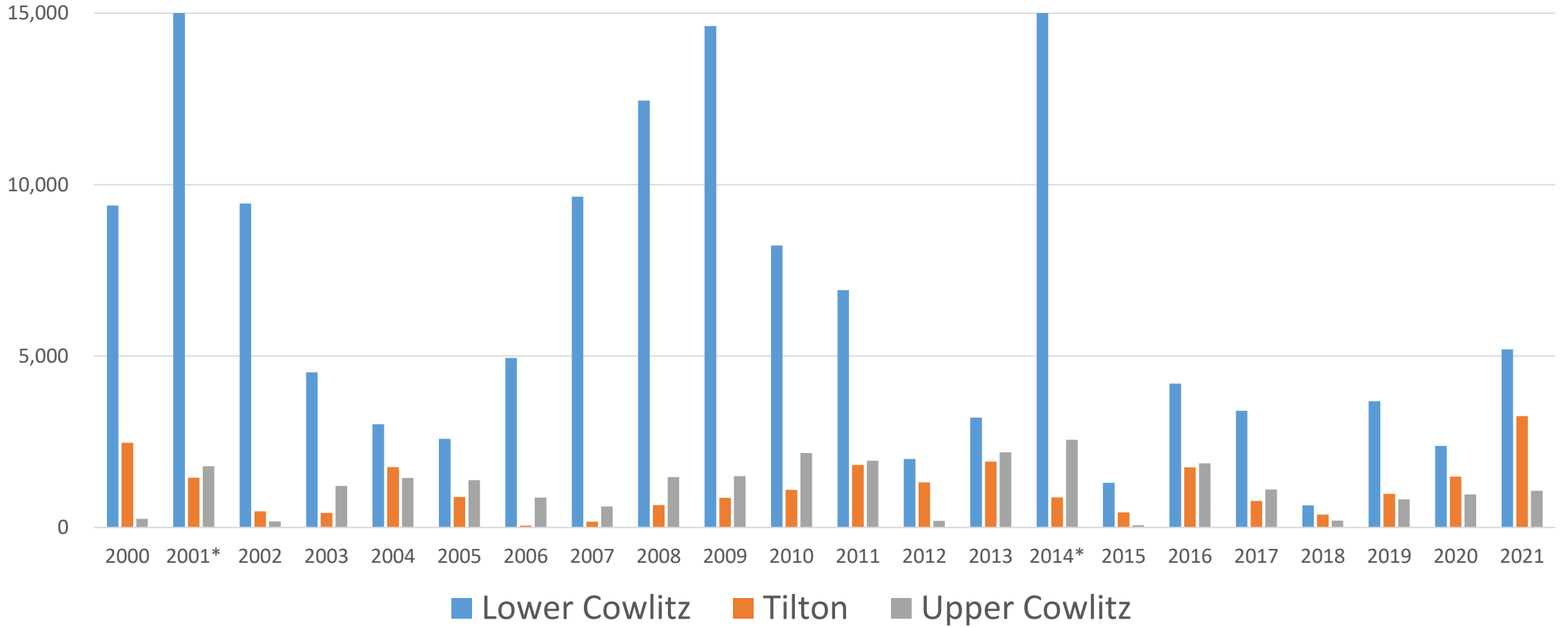
# Lower Cowlitz Fall Chinook Harvest 2013-2021



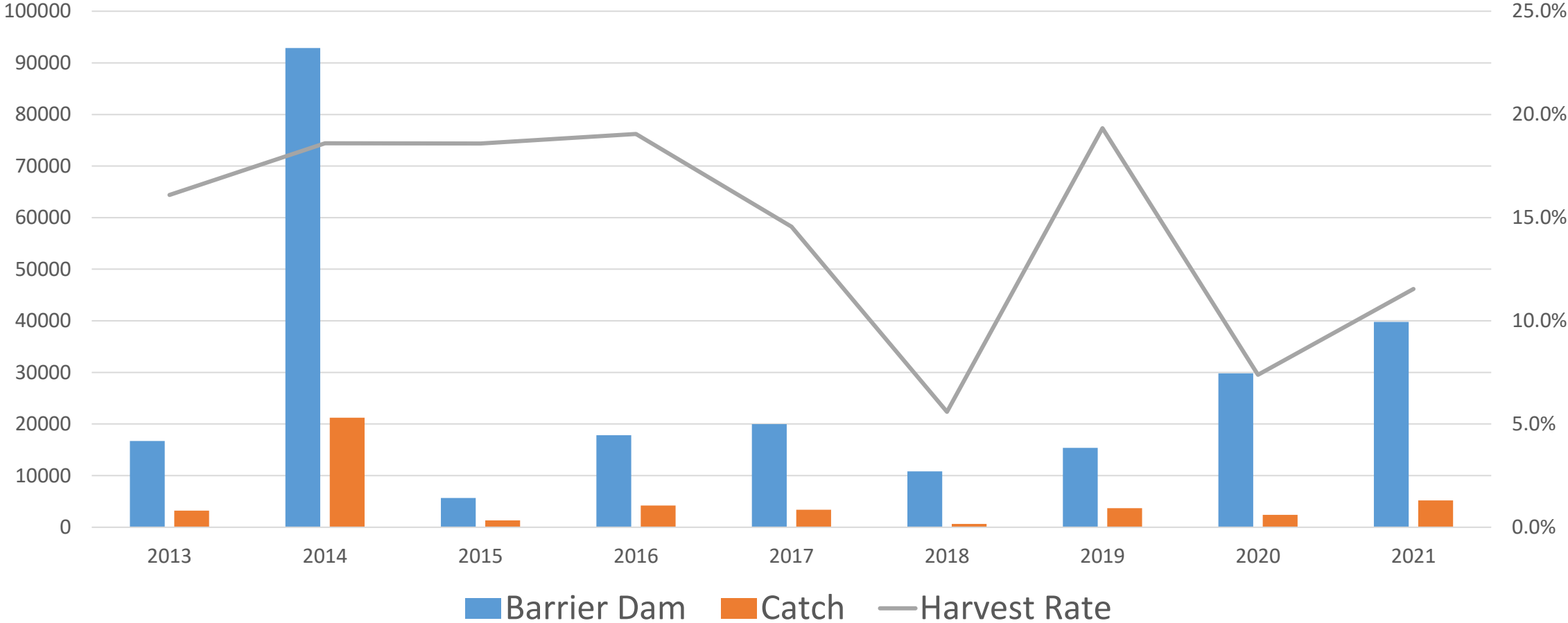
# Tilton Fall Chinook Harvest 2013-2021



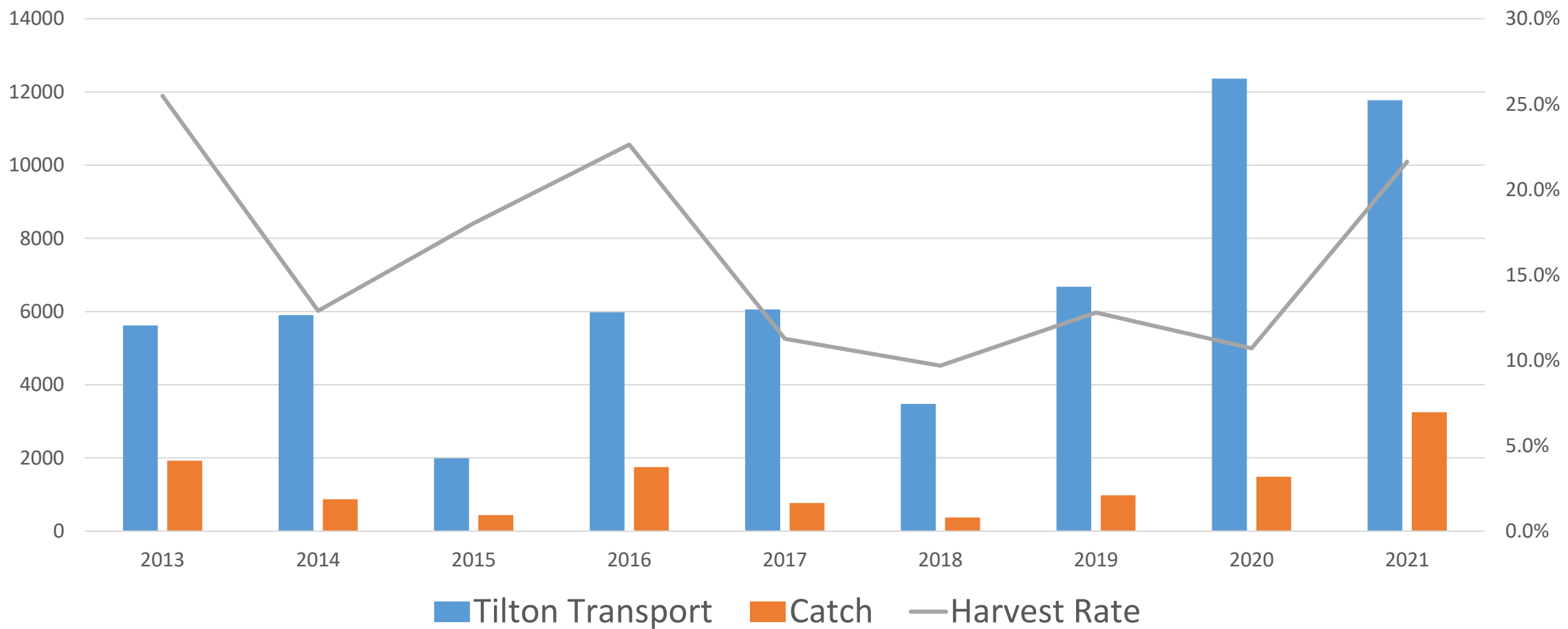
# Cowlitz Coho Harvest 2000-2021



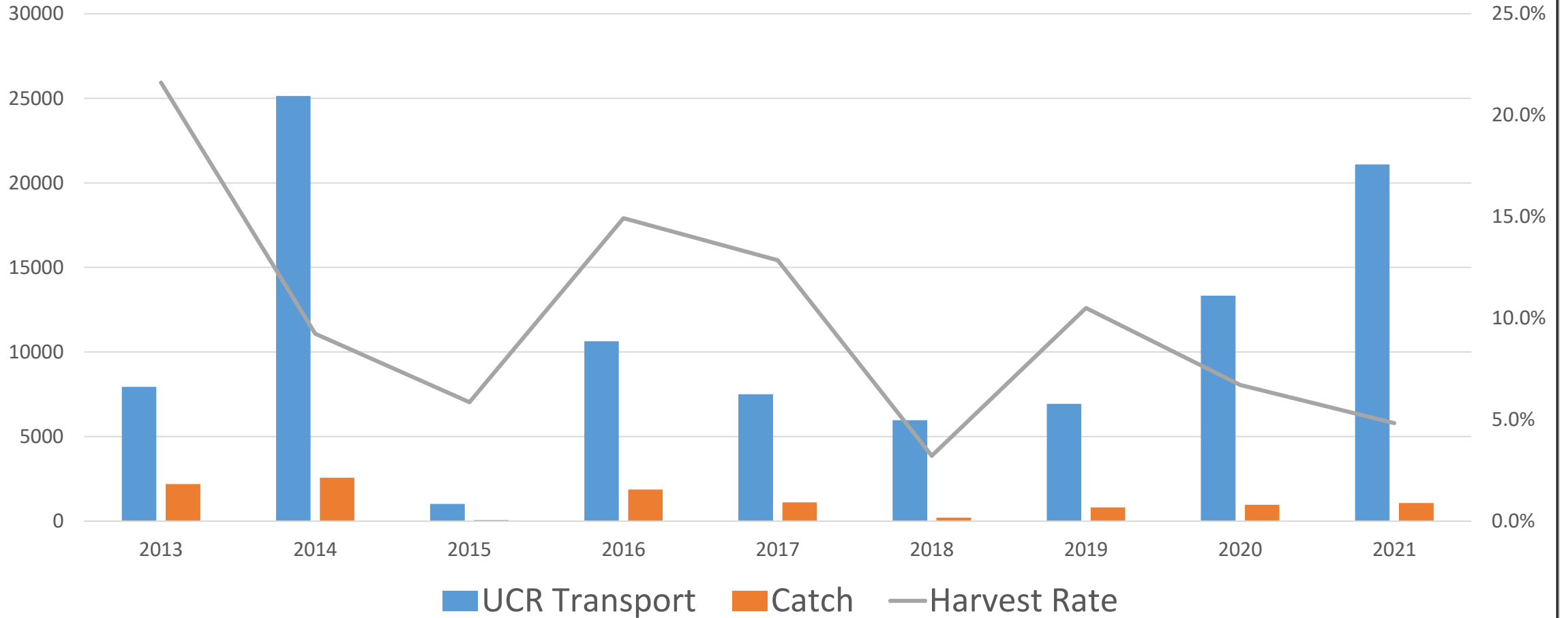
# Lower Cowlitz Coho Harvest 2013-2021



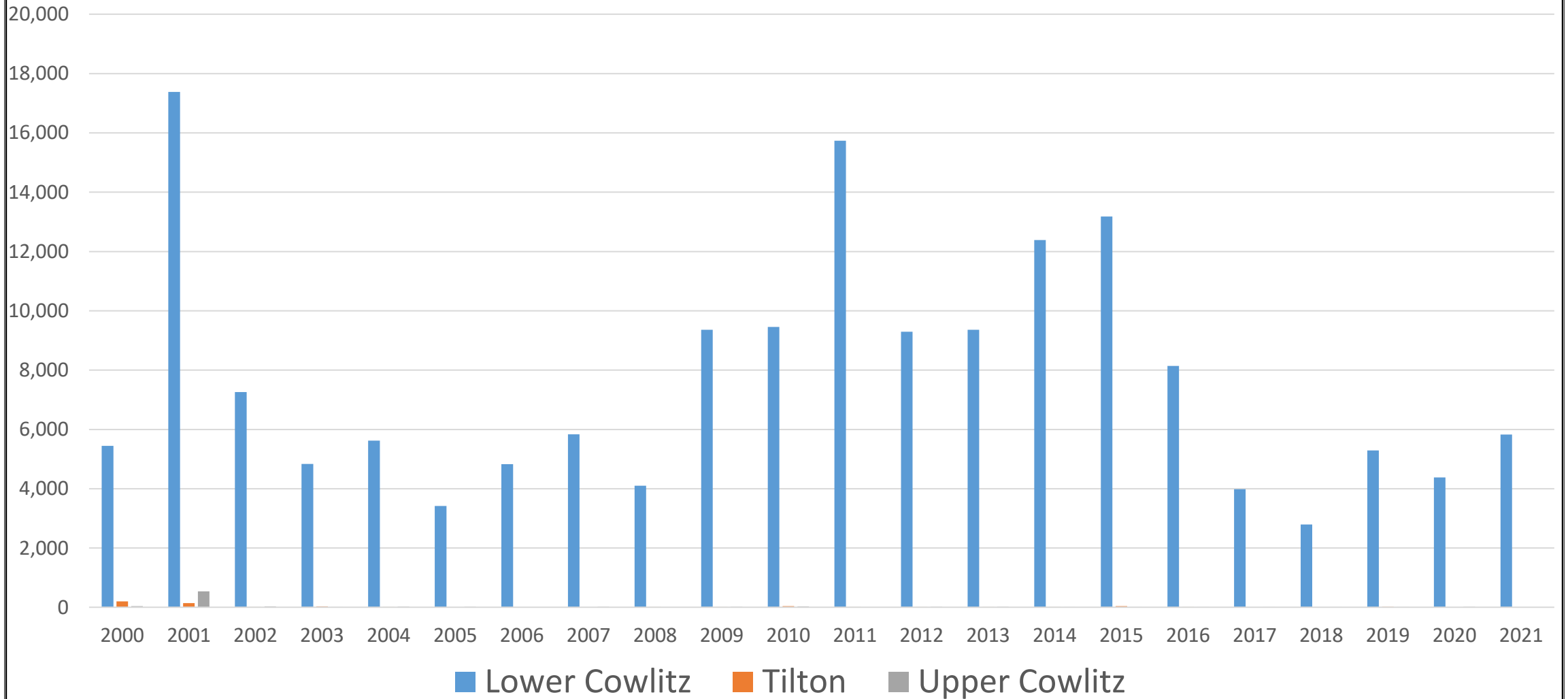
# Tilton Coho Harvest 2013-2021



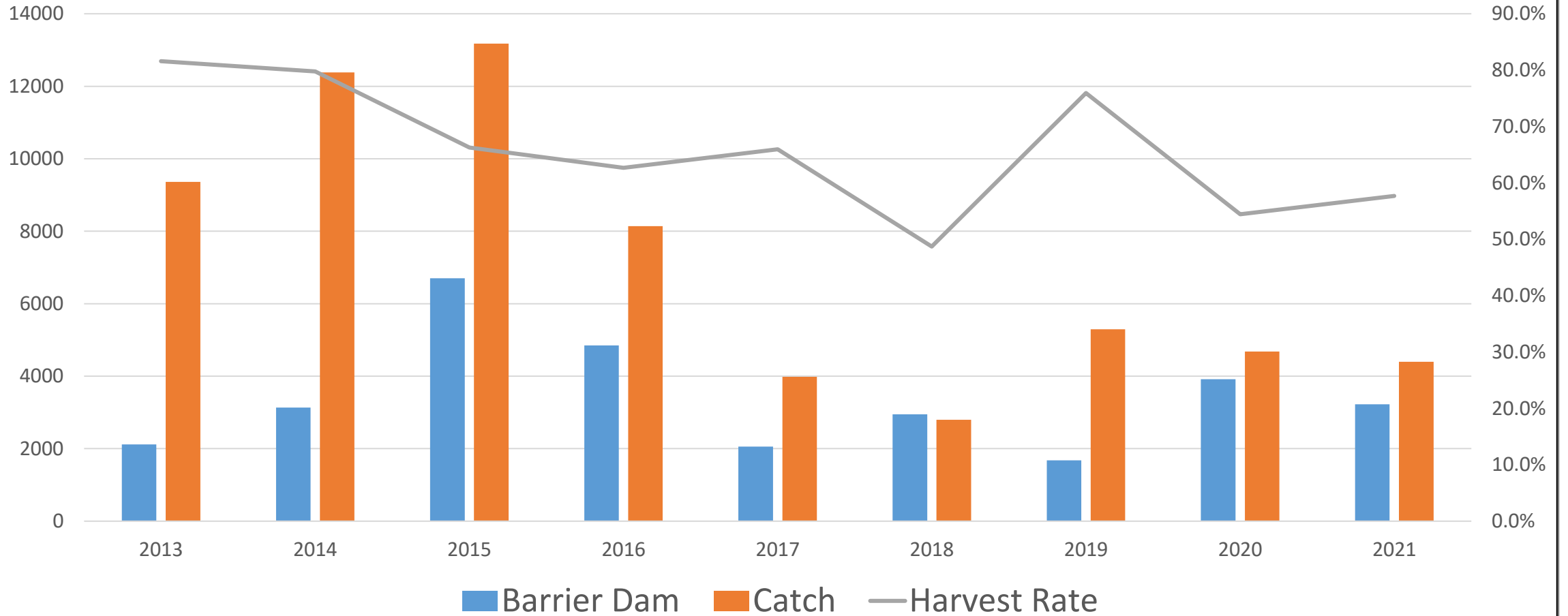
# Upper Cowlitz Coho Harvest 2013-2021



# Cowlitz Winter Steelhead Harvest 2000-2021

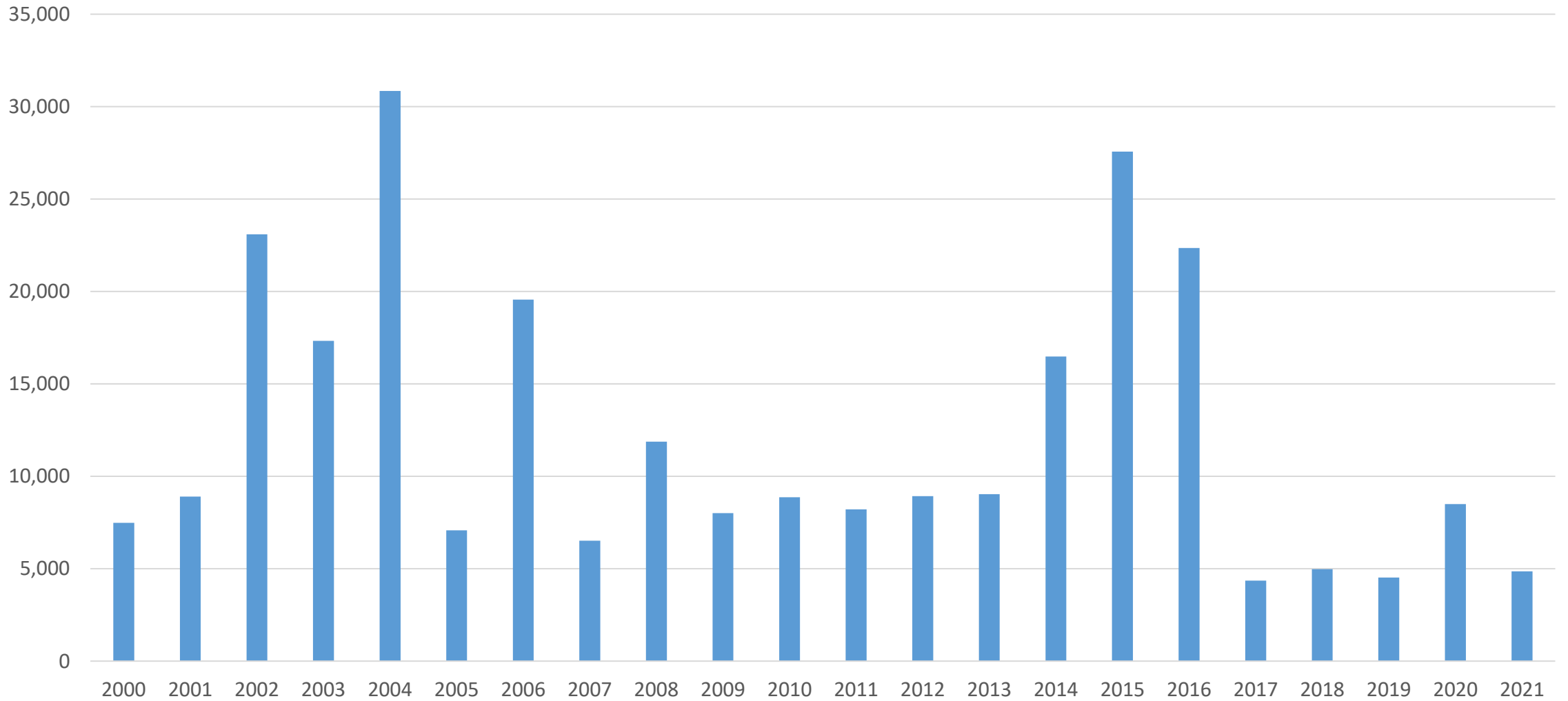


# Lower Cowlitz Winter Steelhead Harvest 2013-2021

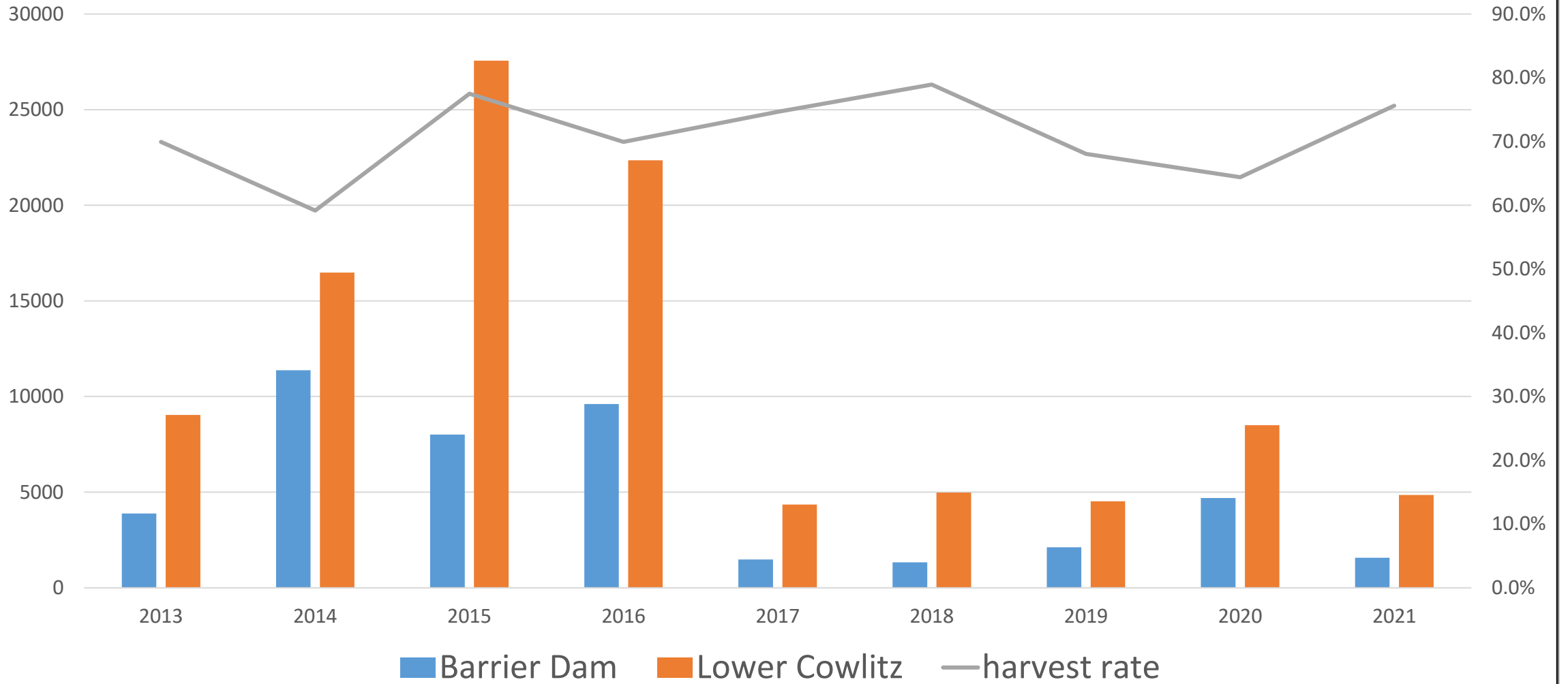




# Cowlitz Summer Steelhead Harvest 2000-2021



# Lower Cowlitz Summer Steelhead Harvest 2013-2021



# Cowlitz Harvest 2021 Year in Review

- Spring Chinook Harvest Rates
  - Lower Cowlitz = 15%, Upper Cowlitz = >1%
- Fall Chinook
  - Lower Cowlitz = 5%, Tilton = 0%      Truncated Season
- Coho
  - Lower Cowlitz = 11%, Tilton = 21%, U Cowlitz = 5%
- Winter Steelhead
  - Lower Cowlitz = 57%
- Summer Steelhead
  - Lower Cowlitz = 76%
  
- Searun Cutthroat= no CRC data

# Many Thanks to Contributors

- WDFW: Eric Kraig, Tracy Scalici, John Serl, Chris Gleizes
- Tacoma Power: Eric Shoblom, Jamie Murphy, Scott Gibson, Missy Baier

# Questions?

